

Filters for Separating the Substantive from the Superficial for Building Healthy and Resilient Communities in Fresno



The ARCHER Filters - Hitting the Authentic Community Building Target



Assets. The gifts, skills, knowledge and passions that community members are willing to organize and contribute to developing effective solutions takes priority over exclusive institution-derived conceptions and unilateral strategies for dealing with deficits, deficiencies and what appears to be missing or problematic for communities of disparity.

Responsibility. Personal responsibility is primary for maintaining freedom and creating opportunities to improve individual and shared circumstances. When it is acknowledged and acted upon, it affirms the essence of our democratic experiment that *freedom equals responsibility*.

Competence. Institutional actions emphasize commitment of resources to building the peer-based leadership and organizational skills, capacities, and competence required by community members to effectively act on their own to solve problems and to avoid being intentionally or inadvertently coopted by more powerful or influential interests.

Harmony. Communities will make progress most sustainably when they are characterized by relational intentionality between stakeholders, neighbors, officials, affinity groups and institutions. A commitment to the familiarity, camaraderie, and harmony of a community that places friendship and neighborliness above ideology or one-sided interests increases everyone's investment and willingness to work for the common good.

Empowerment. Communities self-determine identities, aspirations, strategies and organizational actions for improvement, and work and learn in mutually respectful relationships and resource partnerships with public, private and nonprofit institutions to get things done.

Results. Producing measurable factual progress and results toward achieving healthy and resilient communities is paramount, and should not be confused with or obfuscated by the typical hyperbole, flattery, and self-deceptive rhetoric characterizing most insufficient, transitory, and ultimately non-substantive community improvement projects, programs, and initiatives.

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